

do not define us. Do you know what share of Americans believe race or ethnicity should be a major factor in university admissions? Seven percent. Do you know what percentage believe that gender should be a major factor in university admissions? Four percent.

But when these Democrats talk about our sacred legal system, they sound like the HR department at some liberal university.

The White House statements singled out three judges by name. In all three cases, the President labored some aspect of the judge's identity. In zero—zero—of the three cases did the President have anything to say about their knowledge, intellect, or professional distinction.

It is offensive to all Americans who have a President seeming to view our judiciary as some kind of crude sociological math problem. This is just the kind of thing our Constitution cuts against.

Ironically, when it came to how these new judges actually think, both the President and the Democratic leader went out of their way to celebrate the lack of diversity in their thinking. They bragged about their coordinated and deliberate effort to stuff the judiciary with an unprecedented volume of former criminal defense attorneys.

Democrats have long said they want judges to have empathy. Well, that is good news if you happen to be the party for whom the judge has a special bias; not so good, however, if you are the other party and you are looking for a fair trial.

Now, Democrats are helpfully telling us whom they want judges to empathize with: accused criminals, not innocent victims.

Now, nobody is saying we shouldn't have any public defenders on the bench. But even the New York Times admits the Democrats' sweeping effort to tilt the playing field in one direction is "a sea change in the world of judicial nominations."

When Republicans held the Presidency and the Senate, we spent 4 years confirming staggeringly qualified and incredibly brilliant men and women to the courts, from widely diverse professional and educational credentials.

Back then, even the very liberal outlet Vox.com reported:

Based solely on objective legal credentials—

Objective legal credentials—the average . . . appointee has a far more impressive resume than any past president's nominees.

That was then. So where are we? These days, things are different. To name just one example, significantly smaller shares of this President's nominees have attained prestigious clerkships at the Supreme Court or the appellate level.

To name another example, one person President Biden has put up for a lifetime appointment could not even tell the Judiciary Committee what is in article II or article V of the Constitution.

Look, our courts uphold the rule of law and protect our citizens' rights. The American people deserve a judiciary that contains the smartest, most formidable, and most qualified legal all-stars in our country. And they deserve a President who takes this seriously.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Adrienne C. Nelson, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ANA C. REYES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Ana Reyes, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Reyes first immigrated to this country when she was 5 years old. At the time, she could not speak any English. That quickly changed through her hard work and with the help of her first-grade teacher, Pat Harkleroad, who came to Ms. Reyes' Louisville, KY, elementary school an hour early each morning to provide one-on-one English lessons.

Born in Montevideo, Uruguay, Ms. Reyes built off of this foundational experience to earn her B.A. summa cum laude from Transylvania University in 1996 and her J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 2000.

After clerking for the Honorable Amalya Kearse on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Ms. Reyes joined Williams & Connolly as an associate in 2001. Promoted to partner in 2009, Ms. Reyes has spent her career specializing in complex litigation and international arbitration, trying 10 cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision.

Although she has been in private practice for her whole career, Ms. Reyes has illustrated her commitment

to public service by devoting over 3,300 hours to pro bono work. While her pro bono work spans several fields, including criminal defense, a significant amount of her efforts has been directed towards representing asylum seekers fleeing political persecution, torture, and gender-based violence.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Ms. Reyes as "well qualified" to serve on the D.C. District Court and, if confirmed, she will be the first Hispanic woman and the first openly LGBTQ+ person to ever serve on the D.C. District Court.

I look forward to supporting this highly-qualified nominee and urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

VOTE ON NELSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nelson nomination?

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 17 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—2

Casey Feinstein

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will

be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 10, Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 18 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Casey

(Mr. MERKLEY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, before I begin some remarks, I would like to advise the desk that I will deliver a portion of my remarks in Spanish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today profoundly humbled by the people of California for placing their trust in me to serve and represent them for a full term in the U.S. Senate.

It is a tremendous honor to return to this body, and I also recognize that it is also a tremendous responsibility.

To the people of California, thank you, and please know that I will work hard every single day to uphold that trust.

And to my colleagues who have helped me hit the ground running since my first day in the Senate 2 years ago, thank you, and that includes California's senior Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, who has served the State of California for over three decades as a trailblazing public servant and a model for principled leadership, whom I have been honored to serve alongside.

And I will always be thankful for my parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla, for all they did for my brother, my sister, and me growing up.

And, of course, I could not be here without the love and support and often the patience and understanding of my wife Angela and our three boys, Roman, Alex, and Diego.

Now, as the first Latino elected to represent California in our State's history, it is not lost on me what this moment means for millions of people back home. I understand that my family's story is a reflection of what so many other hardworking families have experienced.

As I have shared many times before, my parents emigrated from Mexico. They came to the United States in search of a better life. For 40 years, my dad worked as a short order cook and my mom cleaned houses as they raised the three of us in the proud, working-class community of Pacoima, CA, in the San Fernando Valley.

I am proud of our family's journey, but it wasn't without our share of challenges. I remember what it looked like to see our neighborhood neglected, navigating everything from buckled sidewalks to drug dealers as we walked to and from school.

I remember what it was like for our family to live paycheck to paycheck—my mom, at times, bartering the mechanic, offering some of her homemade tacos for just a little bit more time to pay the bill.

And when it came time to figuring out how I was going to pay for college, I remember filling out the financial aid forms and realizing that tuition alone at MIT was a larger amount than my dad's W-2.

But it is because of their hard work and sacrifices that I stand here today. The very idea that a first-generation son of a short order cook and a housekeeper is now serving in the U.S. Senate is proof of the American dream.

But that dream has never been about passive participation. It is made possible by those who work for it and by those willing to defend it and expand it. It is about hopeful goals for a better future and the ambition to work towards them. It is about the drive to get up each morning before the sun rises, to put on a white apron, and push through tired eyes and a sore back because you know that someday your kids can have it better.

And if my parents are my inspiration for being here, then my children are my motivation for fighting to keep the dream alive. I am one of the few Members of this body blessed to still have young kids at home. So when we talk about the future of our country or the future of our planet, it is not in the abstract. I think of Roman, Alex, and Diego and their generation. They are the generation who will carry on these monumental tasks and fight for equality and opportunity in the future.

So, colleagues, we have to be focused on doing the work today to make sure the American Dream is alive for them tomorrow.

So I ask: Who is willing to defend the dream? And what are we willing to do to defend it?

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Who is willing to defend the American dream?

Today, I am here before you as the first Latino elected to represent California in the Senate. It is a dream come true because my family's story reflects what many working families have lived in this country.

My parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla, emigrated from Mexico to this country in the sixties.

For 40 years, my father worked as a cook, and my mother worked cleaning houses.

I am here today thanks to their sacrifices, and they continue to be my inspiration.

Now it is our turn to defend the dream for the next generation.